

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:
 DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP
 Attn. Abelev, Gary
 250 Park Avenue
 New York, NY 10177
 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

Patent Mail Receipt

JAN 22 2009

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT AND
THE WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
SEARCHING AUTHORITY, OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

Date of mailing (day/month/year)		15/01/2009
Applicant's or agent's file reference 189555/PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraphs 1 and 4 below	
International application No. PCT/US2008/074863	International filing date (day/month/year)	
Applicant THE GENERAL HOSPITAL CORPORATION	29/08/2008	

1. The applicant is hereby notified that the International search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority have been established and are transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the International Application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally two months from the date of transmittal of the International Search Report.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO, 34 chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, Facsimile No.: (41-22) 338.82.70

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. The applicant is hereby notified that no International search report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority are transmitted herewith.

3. With regard to the protest against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.
 no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

4. Reminders

Shortly after the expiration of 18 months from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90bis.1 and 90bis.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

The applicant may submit comments on an informal basis on the written opinion of the International Searching Authority to the International Bureau. The International Bureau will send a copy of such comments to all designated Offices unless an international preliminary examination report has been or is to be established. These comments would also be made available to the public but not before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date.

Within 19 months from the priority date, but only in respect of some designated Offices, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase until 30 months from the priority date (in some Offices even later); otherwise, the applicant must, within 20 months from the priority date, perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before those designated Offices.

In respect of other designated Offices, the time limit of 30 months (or later) will apply even if no demand is filed within 19 months.

See the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 and, for details about the applicable time limits, Office by Office, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II, National Chapters and the WIPO Internet site.

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority  European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Loredana Cipolla
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NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220

These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, a publication of WIPO.

In these Notes, "Article", "Rule", and "Section" refer to the provisions of the PCT, the PCT Regulations and the PCT Administrative Instructions, respectively.

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 19

The applicant has, after having received the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority, one opportunity to amend the claims of the international application. It should however be emphasized that, since all parts of the international application (claims, description and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination procedure, there is usually no need to file amendments of the claims under Article 19 except where, e.g. the applicant wants the latter to be published for the purposes of provisional protection or has another reason for amending the claims before international publication. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that provisional protection is available in some States only (see *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume I/A, Annexes B1 and B2).

The attention of the applicant is drawn to the fact that amendments to the claims under Article 19 are not allowed where the International Searching Authority has declared, under Article 17(2), that no international search report would be established (see *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume I/A, paragraph 296).

What parts of the international application may be amended?

Under Article 19, only the claims may be amended.

During the international phase, the claims may also be amended (or further amended) under Article 34 before the International Preliminary Examining Authority. The description and drawings may only be amended under Article 34 before the International Examining Authority.

Upon entry into the national phase, all parts of the international application may be amended under Article 28 or, where applicable, Article 41.

When?

Within 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report or 16 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered as having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication (Rule 46.1).

Where not to file the amendments?

The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been/is filed, see below.

How?

Either by cancelling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filed.

A replacement sheet must be submitted for each sheet of the claims which, on account of an amendment or amendments, differs from the sheet originally filed.

All the claims appearing on a replacement sheet must be numbered in Arabic numerals. Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively (Section 205(b)).

The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is to be published.

What documents must/may accompany the amendments?

Letter (Section 205(b)):

The amendments must be submitted with a letter.

The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confused with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

The letter must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant. However, if the language of the international application is English, the letter must be in English; if the language of the international application is French, the letter must be in French.

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220 (continued)

The letter must indicate the differences between the claims as filed and the claims as amended. It must, in particular, indicate, in connection with each claim appearing in the international application (it being understood that identical indications concerning several claims may be grouped), whether

- (i) the claim is unchanged;
- (ii) the claim is cancelled;
- (iii) the claim is new;
- (iv) the claim replaces one or more claims as filed;
- (v) the claim is the result of the division of a claim as filed.

The following examples illustrate the manner in which amendments must be explained in the accompanying letter:

1. [Where originally there were 48 claims and after amendment of some claims there are 51]: "Claims 1 to 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37 to 48 replaced by amended claims bearing the same numbers; claims 30, 33 and 36 unchanged; new claims 49 to 51 added."
2. [Where originally there were 15 claims and after amendment of all claims there are 11]: "Claims 1 to 15 replaced by amended claims 1 to 11."
3. [Where originally there were 14 claims and the amendments consist in cancelling some claims and in adding new claims]: "Claims 1 to 6 and 14 unchanged; claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added." or "Claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added; all other claims unchanged."
4. [Where various kinds of amendments are made]: "Claims 1-10 unchanged; claims 11 to 13, 18 and 19 cancelled; claims 14, 15 and 16 replaced by amended claim 14; claim 17 subdivided into amended claims 15, 16 and 17; new claims 20 and 21 added."

"Statement under article 19(1)" (Rule 46.4)

The amendments may be accompanied by a statement explaining the amendments and indicating any impact that such amendments might have on the description and the drawings (which cannot be amended under Article 19(1)).

The statement will be published with the international application and the amended claims.

It must be in the language in which the international application is to be published.

It must be brief, not exceeding 500 words if in English or if translated into English.

It should not be confused with and does not replace the letter indicating the differences between the claims as filed and as amended. It must be filed on a separate sheet and must be identified as such by a heading, preferably by using the words "Statement under Article 19(1)."

It may not contain any disparaging comments on the international search report or the relevance of citations contained in that report. Reference to citations, relevant to a given claim, contained in the international search report may be made only in connection with an amendment of that claim.

Consequence if a demand for international preliminary examination has already been filed

If, at the time of filing any amendments and any accompanying statement, under Article 19, a demand for international preliminary examination has already been submitted, the applicant must preferably, at the time of filing the amendments (and any statement) with the International Bureau, also file with the International Preliminary Examining Authority a copy of such amendments (and of any statement) and, where required, a translation of such amendments for the procedure before that Authority (see Rules 55.3(a) and 62.2, first sentence). For further information, see the Notes to the demand form (PCT/IPEA/401).

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, the written opinion of the International Searching Authority will, except in certain cases where the International Preliminary Examining Authority did not act as International Searching Authority and where it has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1b(s)(b), be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority. If a demand is made, the applicant may submit to the International Preliminary Examining Authority a reply to the written opinion together, where appropriate, with amendments before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later (Rule 43bis.1(c)).

Consequence with regard to translation of the international application for entry into the national phase

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that, upon entry into the national phase, a translation of the claims as amended under Article 19 may have to be furnished to the designated/elected Offices, instead of, or in addition to, the translation of the claims as filed.

For further details on the requirements of each designated/elected Office, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 189555/PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION <small>see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.</small>	
International application No. PCT/US2008/074863	International filing date (day/month/year) 29/08/2008	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 31/08/2007
Applicant THE GENERAL HOSPITAL CORPORATION		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 5 sheets.

It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

- 1. Basis of the report**
 - With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of:
 - the international application in the language in which it was filed
 - a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))
 - This international search report has been established taking into account the rectification of an obvious mistake authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rule 43.6(b)(a)).
 - With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.
- 2.** Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box No. II)
- 3.** Unity of invention is lacking (see Box No III)
- 4.** With regard to the title,
 - the text is approved as submitted by the applicant
 - the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:
- 5.** With regard to the abstract,
 - the text is approved as submitted by the applicant
 - the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority
- 6.** With regard to the drawings,
 - the figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1
 - as suggested by the applicant
 - as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure
 - as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention
 - none of the figures is to be published with the abstract

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US2008/074863

Box No. IV Text of the abstract (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

In general, certain exemplary embodiments of the system and method according to the present invention can facilitate high-resolution imaging by collecting the emission of a fluorophore by a lens, collimating the light into a beam that is passed through a phase element that imparts multiple, distinct wavelength-dependent phase delays over the beam wavefront. This beam is then wavelength dispersed by a prism, a grating, or other dispersive element and focused onto a spectrometer. For example, when the individual wavelength components of the beam are focused to a point on the spectrometer, the phase-delayed components of their wave fronts interfere with each other, likely producing a wavelength-dependent, fluorescence self-interferogram. This self-interferogram can then be analyzed by way of a Fourier transform to extract sub-diffraction resolution information. The sub-diffraction limited information is contained in the relative phase, as may be determined from the complex Fourier component of the interference.

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. G01N21/64
ADD. G02B21/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
G01N G02B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 241 364 A (KIMURA TOSHIHITO [JP]) 31 August 1993 (1993-08-31) figures 4,6,12,17 column 13, lines 6,15 column 19, line 18 - line 54 column 20, line 46 - line 51 column 23, line 12 - column 25, line 57 column 26, line 50 - column 27, line 13 -----	1-4, 6-15, 17-19, 24-27
X	US 5 910 839 A (ERSKINE DAVID J [US]) 8 June 1999 (1999-06-08) abstract column 12, line 9 - line 53 column 14, line 21 - line 44 figures 5A,8 -----	1-3,5, 9-11,13, 15-27

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

Z document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report

1 December 2008

15/01/2009

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

D'Alessandro, Davide

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	BILENCA A ET AL: "The role of amplitude and phase in fluorescence coherence imaging: from wide field to nanometer depth profiling" CLEO '07. 2007 CONFERENCE ON LASERS AND ELECTRO-OPTICS IEEE PISCATAWAY, NJ, USA, 5 May 2007 (2007-05-05), pages 1504-1505, XP002506160 ISBN: 978-1-55752-834-6 the whole document -----	1-5, 9-11,15, 17-27
A	INOUE YUSUKE ET AL: "Variable phase-contrast fluorescence spectrometry for fluorescently stained cells" APPLIED PHYSICS LETTERS, AIP, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS, MELVILLE, NY, vol. 89, no. 12, 18 September 2006 (2006-09-18), pages 121103-121103, XP012085794 ISSN: 0003-6951 the whole document -----	1-27
A	US 2007/070496 A1 (GWEON DAE G [KR] ET AL GWEON DAE GAB [KR] ET AL) 29 March 2007 (2007-03-29) abstract figures 1,6,7 paragraph [0009] - paragraph [0013] paragraph [0053] - paragraph [0062] paragraph [0123] - paragraph [0125] paragraph [0131] - paragraph [0132] -----	1-27
A	BERNET S ET AL: "Quantitative imaging of complex samples by spiral phase contrast microscopy" OPTICS EXPRESS OPT. SOC. AMERICA USA, vol. 14, no. 9, May 2006 (2006-05), XP002506161 ISSN: 1094-4087 abstract section 2 -----	6-8

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 5241364	A	31-08-1993	NONE			
US 5910839	A	08-06-1999	AU WO US	2263497 A 9728419 A1 5642194 A	22-08-1997 07-08-1997 24-06-1997	
US 2007070496	A1	29-03-2007	DE JP	102006025505 A1 2007086735 A	16-05-2007 05-04-2007	

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY
(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference see form PCT/ISA/220		FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below	
International application No. PCT/US2008/074863	International filing date (day/month/year) 29.08.2008	Priority date (day/month/year) 31.08.2007	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC INV. G01N21/64 ADD. G02B21/00			
Applicant THE GENERAL HOSPITAL CORPORATION			

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx. 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Date of completion of this opinion 2. form PCT/ISA/210	Authorized Officer D'Alessandro, Davide Telephone No. +31 70 340-1919
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Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 the international application in the language in which it was filed
 a translation of the international application into , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1 (b)).
2. This opinion has been established taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rule 43bis.1(a))
3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 a sequence listing
 table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 on paper
 in electronic form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 contained in the international application as filed.
 filed together with the international application in electronic form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
4. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
5. Additional comments:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/US2008/074863

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or
industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	<u>12,14,16</u>
	No: Claims	<u>1-11,13,15,17-27</u>
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	<u>1-27</u>
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	<u>1-27</u>
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: US-A-5 241 364 (KIMURA TOSHIHITO [JP]) 31 August 1993 (1993-08-31)
D2: US-A-5 910 839 (ERSKINE DAVID J [US]) 8 June 1999 (1999-06-08)
D3: BILENCA A ET AL: "The role of amplitude and phase in fluorescence coherence imaging: from wide field to nanometer depth profiling" CLEO '07. 2007 CONFERENCE ON LASERS AND ELECTRO-OPTICS IEEE PISCATAWAY, NJ, USA, 5 May 2007 (2007-05-05), pages 1504-1505, XP002506160 ISBN: 978-1-55752-834-6

1. The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of independent claims 1,18,24,26 and 27 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

1.1 Concerning claim 1, the document D1 discloses (the references applying to this document):

fig. 12;

An apparatus which is configured to obtain at least one electro-magnetic radiation from at least one portion of a sample (123), comprising:

col. 24, l. 3-13;

at least one first arrangement (104,104a) which is configured to separate the at least one electro-magnetic radiation into a plurality of first radiations, one of the first radiations (*undiffracted light component*) having a phase delay that is different from a phase delay of another (*diffracted light component*) of the first radiations;

col. 19, l. 33-44

col. 23, l. 45-48; at least one second arrangement (*dichroic mirrors 165, 171*) which is configured to receive at least one of the first radiations, and separate the received at least one of the first radiations into second radiations according to wavelengths of the received at least one of the first radiations;

col. 24, l. 40-44;

col. 25, l. 15-18

col. 20, l. 46-51 and at least one third arrangement (**126**) which is configured to spatially filter at least one of the first radiations or the second radiations, and positioned in a light path between the first and second arrangements [or following the at least one second arrangement].

The subject-matter of this claim is therefore not new.

The embodiment of *fig. 17*, having the single dichroic mirror **194**, is equally novelty-destroying for this claim.

1.2 Document D2 (*fig. 8*) discloses an additional apparatus falling in the scope of claim 1, the detecting interferometer (**128**) being the "first arrangement", the dispersive element (**132**) being the "second arrangement" and the slit (**130**) being the "third arrangement".

1.3 It is remarked that also document D3 (see in particular *fig. 1*) discloses a "first arrangement" separating fluorescence light from a sample along two interferometer arms having different path length, and a "second arrangement" - the diffraction grating - for separating the radiation according to the wavelength. A spatial filter, in particular a slit, is considered implicitly disclosed by the spectrometer of D3.

Also D3 is therefore novelty-destroying for claim 1.

1.4 Concerning independent method claim 24, D1 discloses:

fig. 12 A method to provide information associated with at least one portion of a sample, comprising:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)

International application No.

PCT/US2008/074863

col. 24, l. 3-13; separating at least one electro-magnetic radiation received from the at least one portion of the sample into a plurality of first radiations, one of the first radiations having a phase delay that is different from a phase delay of another of the first radiations;

col. 19, l. 33-44

col. 23, l. 45-48; receiving least one of the first radiations, and separating the received at least one of the first radiations into second radiations according to wavelengths of the received at least one of the first radiations;

col. 24, l. 40-44;

col. 25, l. 15-18

col. 24, l. 13-18; and detecting the second radiations and generating information regarding a position (point images *QR1, QG1, QB1*) of the at least one portion of the sample as a function of at least one characteristic of at least one interference of the first radiations.

col. 24, l. 66 -

col. 25, l. 4;

col. 25, l. 42-47

The subject-matter of this claim is therefore not new.

1.3 The additional independent claims 18, 26 and 27 are not new for the same reasons.

2. Dependent claims 2-17,19-23,25 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step, see documents D1-D3 and the corresponding passages cited in the search report.

2.1 In particular, the wording of dependent claims 7 and 8 is so unclear (Art. 6 PCT), that so difference can be identified between the subject-matter of these claims and the prior art.

Possible steps after receipt of the international search report (ISR) and written opinion of the International Searching Authority (WO-ISA)

General information

For all international applications filed on or after 01/01/2004 the competent ISA will establish an ISR. It is accompanied by the WO-ISA. Unlike the former written opinion of the IPEA (Rule 66.2 PCT), the WO-ISA is not meant to be responded to, but to be taken into consideration for further procedural steps. This document explains about the possibilities.

Amending claims under Art. 19 PCT

Within 2 months after the date of mailing of the ISR and the WO-ISA the applicant may file amended claims under Art. 19 PCT directly with the International Bureau of WIPO. The PCT reform of 2004 did not change this procedure. For further information please see Rule 46 PCT as well as form PCT/ISA/220 and the corresponding Notes to form PCT/ISA/220.

Filing a demand for international preliminary examination

In principle, the WO-ISA will be considered as the written opinion of the IPEA. This should, in many cases, make it unnecessary to file a demand for international preliminary examination. If the applicant nevertheless wishes to file a demand this must be done before expiry of 3 months after the date of mailing of the ISR/ WO-ISA or 22 months after priority date, whichever expires later (Rule 54bis PCT). Amendments under Art. 34 PCT can be filed with the IPEA as before, normally at the same time as filing the demand (Rule 66.1 (b) PCT).

If a demand for international preliminary examination is filed and no comments/amendments have been received the WO-ISA will be transformed by the IPEA into an IPRP (International Preliminary Report on Patentability) which would merely reflect the content of the WO-ISA. The demand can still be withdrawn (Art. 37 PCT).

Filing informal comments

After receipt of the ISR/WO-ISA the applicant may file informal comments on the WO-ISA directly with the International Bureau of WIPO. These will be communicated to the designated Offices together with the IPRP (International Preliminary Report on Patentability) at 30 months from the priority date. Please also refer to the next box.

End of the international phase

At the end of the international phase the International Bureau of WIPO will transform the WO-ISA or, if a demand was filed, the written opinion of the IPEA into the IPRP, which will then be transmitted together with possible informal comments to the designated Offices. The IPRP replaces the former IPER (international preliminary examination report).

Relevant PCT Rules and more information

Rule 43 PCT, Rule 43bis PCT, Rule 44 PCT, Rule 44bis PCT, PCT Newsletter 12/2003, OJ 11/2003, OJ 12/2003

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